

§ 654.4

there is a temporary moratorium on the issuance by the Regional Director of Federal identification numbers and color codes for vessels and gear in the stone crab fishery in the management area. The moratorium will end not later than June 30, 2002. During the moratorium, fishermen must obtain identification numbers and color codes for these vessels and gear from the State of Florida. (See § 654.6(a).)

[60 FR 13919, Mar. 15, 1995, as amended at 63 FR 44595, Aug. 20, 1998]

§ 654.4 Permits and fees. [Reserved]

§ 654.5 Recordkeeping and reporting. [Reserved]

§ 654.6 Vessel and gear identification.

(a) An owner or operator of a vessel that is used to harvest stone crabs by traps in the management area must comply with the vessel and gear identification requirements applicable to the harvesting of stone crabs by traps in Florida's waters in effect as of April 14, 1995, in Rule 62N-8.001 and Rule 46-

13.002(2) (e) and (f), Florida Administrative Code. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Office of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission, 2540 Executive Center Circle West, Suite 106, Tallahassee, FL 32301; telephone: 904-487-0554. Copies may be inspected at the office of the Regional Director; the Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; or the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC.

(b) A stone crab trap or buoy in the EEZ that is not in compliance with the gear identification requirements specified in paragraph (a) of this section is illegal. Such trap or buoy, and any connecting lines, will be considered unclaimed or abandoned property and may be disposed of in any manner considered appropriate by the Assistant Administrator or an authorized officer. An owner of such trap or buoy remains subject to appropriate civil penalties. A stone crab trap will be presumed to

50 CFR Ch. VI (10-1-00 Edition)

be the property of the most recently documented owner.

[60 FR 13919, Mar. 15, 1995; 60 FR 20196, Apr. 28, 1995]

§ 654.7 Prohibitions.

In addition to the general prohibitions specified in § 620.7 of this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to do any of the following:

(a) Falsify or fail to display and maintain vessel and gear identification, as required by § 654.6(a).

(b) Possess a stone crab in the management area during the period specified in § 654.20(a).

(c) Possess a stone crab trap in the management area during the period specified in § 654.20(c).

(d) Remove from a stone crab in or from the management area, or possess in the management area, a claw that is less than the minimum size limit specified in § 654.21(a).

(e) Fail to return immediately to the water unharmed an egg-bearing stone crab, or strip eggs from or otherwise molest an egg-bearing stone crab; as specified in § 654.21(b).

(f) Hold a stone crab in or from the management area aboard a vessel other than as specified in § 654.21(c).

(g) Use or possess in the management area a stone crab trap that does not have a biodegradable panel, as specified in § 654.22(a).

(h) Pull or tend a stone crab trap in the management area other than during daylight hours, as specified in § 654.22(b).

(i) Willfully tend, open, pull, or otherwise molest another fisherman's trap, buoy, or line in the management area, as specified in § 654.22(c).

(j) Trawl in a closed area or during a closed season, as specified in §§ 654.23 or 654.24, or as may be implemented under § 654.25(b).

(k) Place a stone crab trap in a closed area or during a closed season, as specified in § 654.24, or as may be implemented under § 654.25(b).

(l) Interfere with fishing or obstruct or damage fishing gear or the fishing vessel of another, as specified in § 654.25(a).

(m) Make any false statement, oral or written, to an authorized officer